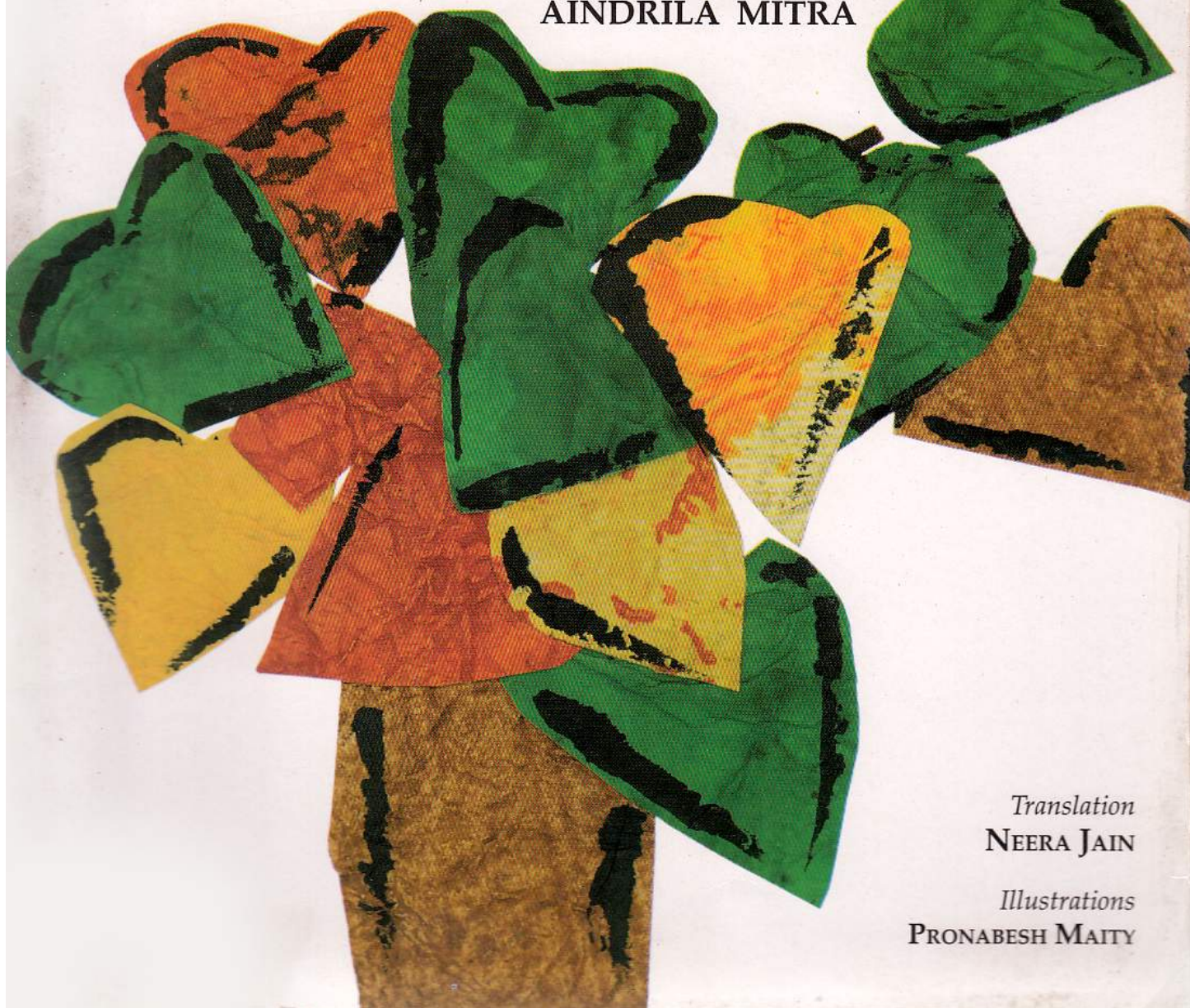




# A FRIEND FOREVER

AINDRILA MITRA



*Translation*  
**NEERA JAIN**

*Illustrations*  
**PRONABESH MAITY**



*Nehru Bal Pustakalaya*

# **A Friend Forever**

Aindrila Mitra

*Translation*  
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**NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA**



# A Friend Forever

This is the story of a lonely Tree.







In the middle of a vast field, our Tree  
has a home.

There are no other trees in that field.  
No birds come here.

That is why the Tree of our story is  
very lonely.

In his heart, the Tree holds a sea of  
stories. But whom to tell!!

The Stars. The Moon. The Sun.  
Everyone is far away.

At a great distance, in the sky....



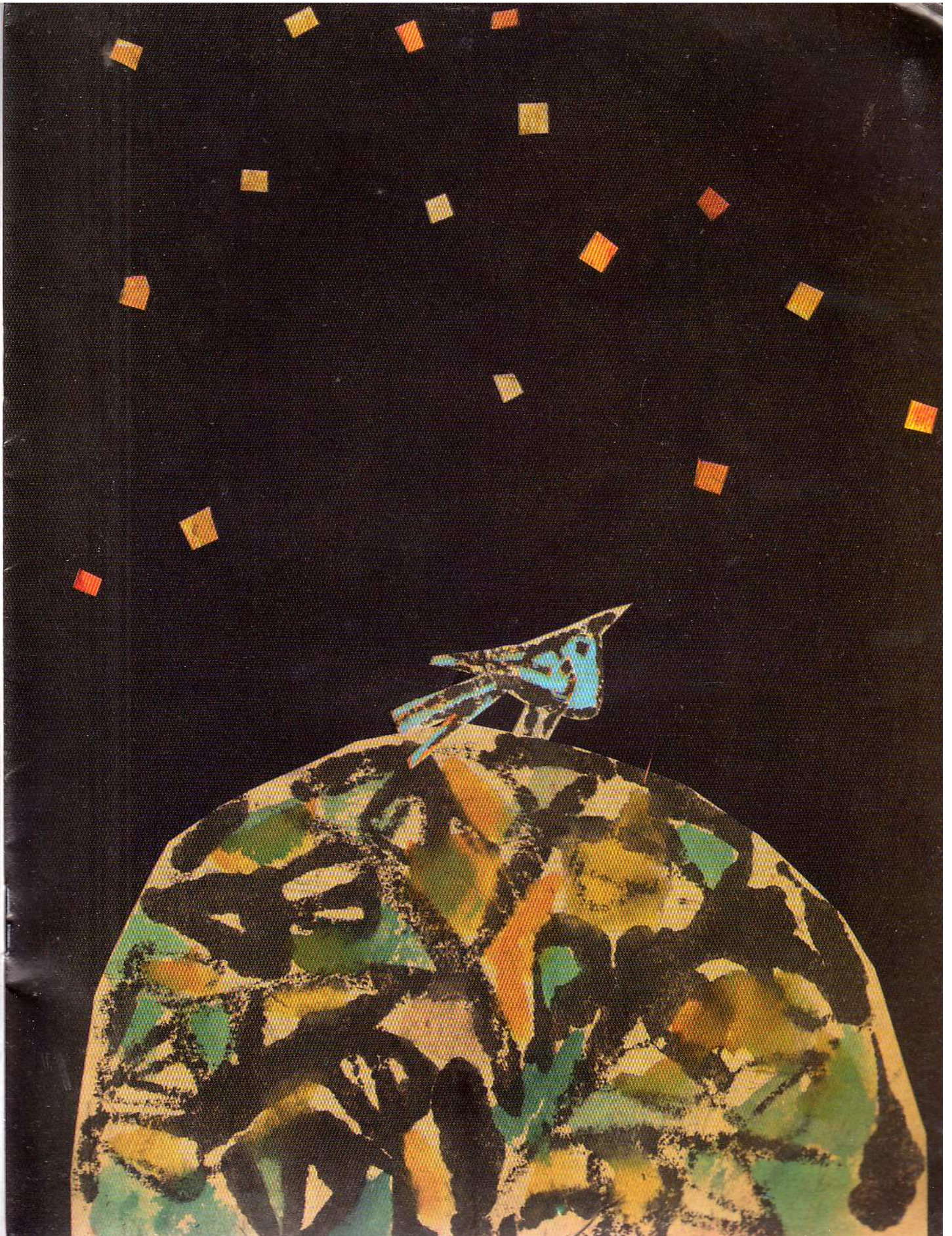




Suddenly one day, a little blue bird comes and sits on the Tree. She had lost her way.

After a while, darkness fell. How would she go home now? So she decides to stay back for the night.







That night, the Tree and the blue bird  
become friends. They talk to each  
other for long. The entire night.







At the break of dawn, the bird has to  
leave.

She tells the Tree, "Don't feel sad,  
dear friend, I will come again."  
So saying, she flies away.







The Tree keeps waiting. Days pass  
by, so do the nights. The blue bird  
does not come.







Tears well up in his eyes and roll  
down drop by drop.







Nobody knows how many days  
pass by.







One morning, the Tree finds, "Lo!  
There is a pond of tears around  
him!"







Now, the Tree starts talking to this pond. He talks for the whole day long. But can the sea of stories finish in a day!!

Sinking his feet in the pond, the Tree continues to talk. He talks and looks at the reflection of the branch in the pond, on which a bird once came and sat.







Our Tree is not lonely any more.















